



# Coast Guard Flag Voice 11

## IMPROVED COMPENSATION

Flag Voice 10 discussed what was being done to focus on pay compensation and retirement plan issues. I guess that it is often human nature to focus on the negative, in this case the "erosion of benefits." However, there has been and continues to be considerable effort directed at improving all sorts of compensation. Here's some of the increased "benes," in an effort to focus on the glass is at least half full, rather than half empty.

Montgomery GI Bill 20% increase in benefits effective 1 Oct 98. For the \$1200 pretax payroll deduction, completing 36 months of active duty services provides up to \$528 a month for 36 months, a total of about \$19,000. Likewise, reservists can receive up to \$251 a month for 36 months of reserve duty, or about \$9,000.

CONUS COLA added for high-cost areas in 1995; received by over 6700 of our members; payments range from \$42 a month for an E6 in San Francisco to \$147 a month for an E6 in New York City.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). Housing allowance reform is intended to provide greater allowance for junior enlisted in high-cost areas and consistent out-of-pocket expenses regardless of location.

Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) Reform. "Partial BAS" is increasing yearly and will continue until all enlisted are on Separate Rations, doing away with rations-in-kind as we know them today; this will provide all enlisted with the subsistence allowance regardless of assignment, e.g. won't be lost when assigned afloat.

Moving allowance increases:

- Do It Yourself (DITY) Move increased from 80% to 95% reimbursement.
- Dislocation Allowance (DLA) increased from 2 to 2.5 of BAH II (old BAQ ) rate.
- Temporary Living Expense (TLE) recently expanded from 3 to 10 days.
- Two vehicles in lieu of one authorized.

Dependent dental care program called Family Dental in which government pays 60% of your premiums, 100% of diagnostic/preventive services, 80% of basic restorations - orthodontic care reimbursement for up to \$1200.

Especially low-cost Servicemember Group Life Insurance (SGLI) has been increased substantially over the years (now \$200K).

Family Separation Allowance (FSA) increased from \$75 to \$100.

Student dependent travel from OCONUS locations; one round trip per year to attend CONUS college.

Authorized Career Sea Pay for 65 footers and ATG personnel.

Authorized five days of Administrative Leave for:

- House hunting
- Birth of newborn Child
- Adoption program

Care of New Born Children program provides up to two years off (no other service has a comparable program).

Adoption reimbursement of up to \$2000 per child.

Aviation Career Incentive Pay (ACIP) will increase maximum allowance from \$650 to \$800 for pilots with more than 14 years of aviation service.

Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) increased \$15 for E-4 and \$40 for E-5 to E-9.

Transporting two vehicles to Alaska. Regulations allow reimbursement for a vehicle being shipped on the Alaskan ferry while another vehicle is shipped at government expense.

Regards, FL Ames

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